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and ordered to remain in the lawn before the door, though raining, which we did for one hour. We were then admitted to the hall, and a consultation held in an adjoining room by the driver, the bailiffs and the justices which terminated in a message to Mr. C. to put the man his siller or go to jail. Mr. C. said he would not pay one farthing, and he would submit to go to jail, but he would not hesitate to spend some thousand pounds to punish all concerned in this most illegal and unjust proceeding. This seemed to stagger the justice, and all concerned were admitted into his office, when they were examined on oath; and though it was perfectly clear that the arrest was unjust and illegal, yet it was about to be determined in favour of the driver, when a young man who was present, (and who I afterwards learned was the son of Mr. C.—d—l) reminded his father that Mr. C. and his party appeared to be respectable people, and that the driver was to his knowledge a rogue, having robbed him at one time of a quantity of oats, for which he was dismissed his service. This appeared to have most weight, and the complainant was nonsuited, and obliged to pay the expenses;—what shame must these gentlemen feel, when they are informed that Mr. C. is a gentleman of the most amiable manners, the strictest honour, and that he possesses a handsome landed property in Ireland, and is at present a member of the Imperial parliament.

S. D. S.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

(Continued from No. XV.)

A LONG walk after a sea voyage, with the excellence of the entertainment, might have excused an extended meal; but the goddess of beauty was not to be seen on common terms; I could think of nothing but the divine hand to which my lips had been so lately pressed, and the elegant and varied feast had passed, perhaps, unnoticed, had not a reluctance to discover the feelings that absorbed my mind, excited me to an effort to conceal them, and I partook

of the repast more from this view than from appetite. But the ladies made ample amends for my deficiency, for they ate well, and drank still better, while the lively jest and reiterated laugh was mingled with their flowing cups.

When they had sufficiently indulged in this way, one of them mentioned, that their company for the evening was by this time assembled, and proposed that we should join them. On inquiring of whom the company consisted, the same lady informed me, that it was their custom to spend the evenings in the society of the captives who happened to be on the island; that those of superior rank, education, or accomplishments, alone were admitted to the palace; but that the rest had such parties of a similar nature in different parts of the island, and such associates as best suited their tastes. Immediately on this she arose, and proceeded, accompanied by the rest, into a spacious apartment, furnished and ornamented with the same elegance as those already described, and splendidly illuminated, in which a number of gentlemen of all nations were assembled in groupes, conversing with ladies who had not been of our party.

After some time spent in this manner, the appearance of musicians, with various instruments, entering a small gallery at the lower end of the apartment, and the separation of the groupes towards the sides, indicated the approach of some other entertainment; and accordingly when the middle of the apartment was sufficiently cleared, a large pair of folding doors were opened at one of its sides, and a number of young beauties entered, arrayed in the dresses of the Otaheitan females, and performed several of the dances of that country with much gracefulness and activity.

To describe the nature or effect of these dances is needless, after the minute accounts which have been given of them in the various voyages to the South sea islands, which have been already published. It is enough to observe, that they seemed to give the utmost satisfaction to the beholders. These dances continued a considerable time; and at last the dancers retired with general applause.

Every minute I anxiously expected the divine mistress of the palace to make her appearance, but finding this did not take place after so long an interval, I inquired from one of the ladies, who looked somewhat less volatile, and more intelligent than the rest, whether we might expect to have the pleasure of seeing their beautiful queen that evening?

She replied, that the goddess, by that time was far on her way towards England, where she had set out directly on leaving her throne, in order to be present at the opening of a new temple for her worship, which was erected on the site of the ancient play-house in Covent Garden. I begged her excuse, in supposing she must be mistaken as to the nature of the building she mentioned, which I had the best authority for stating to be only a new play-house, on a grander scale than that which had been burned. At this she smiled, and said there was no contradiction in the building being both a temple of Venus and a play-house, and that when it was finished, I should see it more resembled a temple externally than a theatre; that besides this the goddess had an entire range of the boxes fitted up as so many distinct chapels, each furnished with its proper *penetrata*, or *adytum*, under the care of either a priest or priestess of her order.

Surprized that the goddess should have taken so much pains in making her worship public and conspicuous, so contrary to her usual policy, I could not forbear expressing my wonder to my fair informer; who made this answer in return.

"I know not whether I am not in some degree guilty of a breach of confidence in revealing to you the secret plans of my mistress; but after the free manner in which she deigned to speak to you on similar subjects this day, I may venture, I believe, to dismiss my scruples: know, then, that the design of Venus in this proceeding, is of a much deeper nature than appears at first view. You know her devotedness to the French interest, and her enmity to Britain; this measure is designed to serve her views in two ways, one of which is not quite certain, but the other is so sure that

it is already in operation. In a country where all the offices of importance, as well as those of an inferior nature, are disposed of to rank and interest, without much consideration of the merit or qualifications of those to whom they are given, the safety of the state must in a peculiar manner depend on the conduct of the nobility and of the higher orders, who either directly or indirectly command in every department: Now, if these nobles and men in power have their thoughts decidedly devoted to meretricious intrigues and sensuality, the neglect of the interests of the nation entrusted to them, must ensue, absolutely from the abstraction of their attention in the first place, and in the second place, their various interests being directed to their own low gratifications, instead of to the service of their country, all the different departments beneath them will be filled up from the ill-judged solicitations of their mistresses, and of course by those most likely to cause those blunders and delays which will make the best planned expeditions nugatory. The arrangements of the new theatre are admirably calculated to facilitate intrigues of the above nature, and particularly those which destroy domestic harmony, and tend to bring the marriage state into contempt. Thus before long, the whole of the upper ranks who command the country, becoming corrupt, and devoted to sensual gratifications alone, their minds depraved, and their intellects dwindled to that low ebb which such modes of life never fail to produce, Cytherea supposes the country cannot fail to fall a prey to its more enlightened and vigilant neighbour, who pursues the contrary system of filling all his offices of consequence from merit alone. This is the direct and more certain mode in which this plan is intended to operate, and its success may be judged of by that of one of a similar kind, tried on an exalted individual not long since, the event of which is fresh in every one's recollection. The more oblique and less certain part of the plan, consists in the hope the goddess possesses, that the mass of the English people seeing their opinions of religion and morality openly insulted by this wanton and public display of the profligacy of

the upper ranks, and seeing for what purposes their hard-earned property is extorted from them, and for what employments the business of the nation is neglected, will be roused to some rash and frantic display of their indignation, and afford a season of universal confusion, when their politic enemy may make his long premeditated attack with the best chance of success. But this last hope is not well judged; such commotions produce energies sometimes which baffle all calculation, and defeat the best-laid plans of the deepest politicians; and Cytherea should have learned, from similar scenes not many years since acted in France, to be less sanguine of success to her views in exciting them. You will observe, added she, in what I have said, that I have adopted many expressions to your notions of propriety; what my own are may be best known by the service in which I am engaged; though in it I must observe, I violate no sacred engagements, nor destroy the peace of families for my trivial pleasures. But I protest I find I am moralizing in a place no way calculated for it; my gay companions all say I am too grave for my employment; but, poor girls, they know not the whole of it, or they would think otherwise.

With this mysterious observation, and a deep sigh, she rose up, as if to give some directions to the attendants, and disappeared among the croud; and though I much wished to renew a conversation, so interesting both for its matter and singularity, and its contrast to the others going forward all around me, and sought for her frequently in the company, I could not again find her.

The musicians again began to tune their instruments, and the company separated to the sides of the apartment as before; the folding doors were again thrown open, and seven lovely females of the most elegant symmetry of form, gracefully entered; they were arrayed in every respect as the much famed dancing girls of India, and for a long time displayed in their appropriate dances, all the various outlines of beauty of which the human form is capable. Those

dances have been described in the pages of the ancients as well as the moderns; in the time of the republic they were exhibited at Rome and have an antiquity even beyond that of this renowned city; these accounts of them, in some respects perhaps too minute, and in others not a little exaggerated, make any farther statement relative to them here superfluous.

I had for some time observed a group seated in one corner of the apartment, who, from their repeated fits of laughter seemed to be so merry, that I only waited for the end of the dance to join them, supposing I could not fail of meeting entertainment among so much mirth. On approaching them I was somewhat startled at observing several of the ladies seated on the knees of the gentlemen; for though, on reflection, the place might well excuse those freedoms, yet they had hitherto preserved so much decorum in their actions, that I did not before find it necessary to recollect where I was, to account for any thing I saw done. The sense of propriety or impropriety of actions, as to their modesty, is early imbibed, and each country fixes an imaginary standard in this respect, of which the variation from the others, is often singular, and sometimes not a little laughable. One of the southern voyagers relates, that his boat's crew once surprized a number of female savages, sporting without any covering, in a shallow part of the sea, near the shore, who seemed as much shocked as European ladies could have been at the rencounter, and seated themselves immediately up to their necks in the water, to hide their persons, till one of their comrades on the shore threw each of them their only dress, which was nothing more but a fringe of long grass fastened to a sort of belt, which they tied round their middles under the water, and then exposed themselves to view without farther reluctance. Besides this fact, and others of a similar nature, I actually recollect having seen, in my travels through a civilized island in the northern parts of the Atlantic ocean, young ladies of unsullied reputation, seated in the same manner as above-mentioned in a public company, and, I believe, with

perfect innocence; yet still such was the force of early prejudice, that I had to recollect all those matters in succession before I could reconcile myself to an apparent breach of decorum, even in Paphos, to which I had not been accustomed. That the ladies of the Court of Cytherea might be allowed those liberties, will not be disputed, nor indeed can there be any fair criterion of their innocence but custom: Yet still the policy of a virtuous female, in making her person too cheap, may be much doubted. If the freedoms, which ought to be the reward of a tender and honourable attachment, are made indiscriminate, what is there left before marriage to show the sense of approbation of a real lover: and would not even the least scrupulous of those sigh to think on receiving so great a favour from his mistress, that he had such good reason to doubt of its being any proof of her affection.

On joining the merry company I met with a fresh surprize; for though the laughter still continued, I could not understand any of the jokes, though I strove to do so with my utmost attention. One of the ladies seemed much more witty than the rest, for every thing she said caused two fits of laughter, one after the good thing was said, and the other before. I was in hopes, by fixing my whole attention on such apparent brilliancy, I might be able to comprehend at least one sentence; but in this I was equally unsuccessful; and of all that was said and laughed at I could only understand an observation of one of the young gentlemen, on the uselessness and absurdity of profound thought, which was much applauded; but he looked as if he spoke merely to please his audience, and that thought was not quite as much his aversion as he affected to profess.

My embarrassment was great at being unable to join in the conversation, and at losing so many witty observations for want of sufficient penetration; for doubtless they must have been very witty, or they would not have excited so much laughter. I was, however, soon relieved from this unpleasant state, by the company retiring to large sideboards, placed

in recesses of the apartment, which were covered with wines, liqueurs, fruits, jellies, and sweet cakes; where the ladies drank freely, particularly of the liqueurs; and indeed I had observed through the whole evening, that they had made continual visits to the sideboards for the same purpose, so that I wondered they had not begun to exhibit some effects of such reiterated indulgences.

After the company were sufficiently refreshed, they again returned to their seats; the music played some lively Spanish airs, and several gentlemen of that nation, who were among the captives, took out the ladies who sat next them and danced fandangos, with great spirit. These were succeeded by a party of French gentlemen who danced cotillions with another set of ladies, with much gracefulness. After this some Scotch gentlemen with their partners danced reels with wonderful vigour and agility. The whole company then arose, and all joined in dancing German waltzes, which seemed to be the dances they most preferred, by the evident delight which appeared in every countenance. On comparing the Otaheitan and Indian dances with this last, much as has been said and written of their indelicacy, I could not but join heartily in the opinion of them expressed in the writings of a gentleman* who had resided much in the East; "that all the movements and attitudes of the Indian dancer's appeared infinitely more graceful, and far less indecent than those in a German waltz. He farther observes that "the dances in India are admirably calculated to set off an elegant figure to the highest advantage; and notwithstanding the warm and animated descriptions which have been given of the indelicacy and voluptuousness of Eastern dances, many of them appeared to him wholly unobjectionable." This latter opinion would perhaps require some qualification, at least those dances exhibited by the ladies of Paphos were not of this innocent description.

* Edward Scott Waring, esq. of the Bengal establishment.

Not finding any inclination to join in the waltzes, or much amusement in looking at them, from the first I wished to leave the apartment; which desire was much increased by the scenes that followed; for the potent libations of the ladies to Bacchus, having began to operate, decency of manners, was gradually abandoned, and a degree of gross indelicacy accompanied with noise and riot succeeded, which was highly disgusting to any sober person. I could not help reflecting how much the most abandoned women lost by indelicacy and what false estimates they formed of the feelings of men, in supposing they made themselves more agreeable by a total dereliction of modesty; if they felt it not, policy should at least induce them to affect it; for of this excellence it may be truly said that even the affectation of it is a virtue.

I now sought earnestly for an opportunity to retire unobserved from scenes, which every moment grew more disagreeable; which was not very difficult, as the whole company were engaged in the waltzes, except three Pachas, who were taken on their way from Stamboul to the provinces, and five merchants from Bussira, who were all seated cross-legged on low sophas at the farther end of the apartment. I cautiously approached the door by which I entered, and watching a favourable moment of increased riot, slipped out without any one perceiving me, and after traversing various long passages faintly lighted, and crossing some spacious apartments, again found myself in the hall of audience, where I before had the pleasure of beholding the queen of beauty.

The moon shone brightly through the lofty windows, I beheld the couch where the embodied perfection had reclined, and stretching myself on it indulged in pleasing recollections of the inimitable charms which had so lately pressed the down on which I lay. How wonderful are the pleasures of imagination! which could thus render the images of memory superior to realities, and produce more delightful sensations from remembered excellence than from the actual view of the beauties I had left, which

though inferior to their mistress, were still of exquisite elegance.

A delightful calm succeeded to the riot I had left, which was only heard afar off, like the murmurings of the ocean on a rocky shore, and rendered my present state more agreeable by the contrast; and a succession of the most pleasing ideas continued to pass through my mind for a considerable time, when this state of happy repose was suddenly interrupted by deep groans at a distance, at first they seemed the effect of imagination, but on hearing them repeated more distinctly, I arose and proceeded towards the sound, which led again to the long passages, that surrounded the palace; stopping frequently to listen; the increasing distinctness of the sound brought me to the head of a long staircase of marble; and after descending many steps, on proceeding towards a light, which appeared at some distance, I suddenly found myself in one of the wards of an extensive hospital, and perceived that the groans, I had heard, proceeded there from the sufferings of some of the wretched females who lay extended on the bed of misery; several kind ladies appeared attending the afflicted, and benignantly doing every thing in their power to soothe their woe; in which good offices they were so earnestly engaged, that I had proceeded far into the apartment before I was noticed. Among the chief of those benevolent ladies, I soon recognised her who disappeared so suddenly from my side in the apartment of assembly. They all seemed embarrassed at seeing a visitor among them, but speedily my former acquaintance addressed me, and expressed her wonder at my leaving the chambers of mirth to visit the abode of affliction. I informed her that my coming there was entirely accidental, and that my leaving the company was principally occasioned by finding the frame of my mind at that time unsuited to the boisterous merriment they were engaged in; hoped she was not displeased at my intrusion, and requested she would satisfy my curiosity, as to the nature of the establishment I there beheld.

She replied, "that the unhappy

sufferers around me, had been not long since the most distinguished for their extreme vivacity, and even for their beauty (little as was the appearance of it then) among the attendants of their queen; but that from their excessive imprudence, and intemperance, particularly in an unlimited indulgence in intoxicating liquors, they laboured under the various distempers, which were always more or less the consequence of such practises; and that their queen had provided this retreat for their relief, which was principally under her care." She then pointed out some of the most remarkable cases of the afflicted, among which she enumerated dropsy, convulsions of various sorts, palsy, gout, acute rheumatism, consumption, and many other frightful disorders, the catalogue of which was closed by the worst and most humiliating of maladies, madness and idiotism. On expressing my surprize that most of the complaints there should be those, which are attributed to intemperance; she observed, that she left it to others to account for the circumstance, but of the fact there could be no doubt; that women when they threw off the restraints of propriety almost invariably indulged to excess in strong liquors, and that to this source even more than to their thoughtless imprudence, most of the misery which they suffered of every description might be traced.

By this time the day began to dawn, and impatient to continue my route, I requested my kind conductress to procure my dismissal as soon as possible; she said that I might go that day, either by one of the vessels of the island, or in a Felucca, the crew of which had been permitted to depart the day before. I preferred the latter conveyance, and had a guide sent with me to the port nearest Delos, with orders to the captain of the Felucca to convey me there without delay; I then took leave of the ladies, and soon arrived at the port, where I found the Felucca weighing her anchor.

I went aboard with the Captain without delay, the large latteen sails, were immediately unfurled, and we

soon advanced with considerable rapidity. The wind being favourable, before many hours we saw the island to which we were bound, at a great distance covered with clouds, which seemed to adhere to it with a force which the wind could not overcome.

On approaching the island we found that its coast consisted of rocky precipices which rose perpendicularly from the ocean, and rendered all access impossible, except at one narrow inlet at each side of which a strong fort furnished with formidable batteries commanded the entrance; which was farther secured by a copper chain that extended from side to side a little way in. As soon as we came within hearing, a female, armed with a short coat of mail and helmet, appeared on the rampart of the nearest fort, with a speaking trumpet of a peculiar construction in her hand, through which, with a voice as distinct as if we were close beside her, she first ordered us to cast anchor between the forts; and then desired to know what brought us there. The captain informed her that he was ordered to land a passenger with dispatches for Juno, who he was informed was then on the island. He was then ordered to wait for a reply. On looking towards the fort we observed a telegraph put in motion, and in about a quarter of an hour, the same female again appeared, and said she had received orders from Minerva who directed the defence of the island, to admit the passenger alone, and then to dismiss the vessel instantly.

The boat was immediately lowered down, and two seamen were sent to put me ashore: when we got near the chain I expected they would have passed under it, as it was about four feet above the water, but they stopped on their oars, with great token of fear of touching it, which I could not then account for, till it was lowered to the bottom by those within the fort; they then passed in, landed me in a very convenient wharf, from which a flight of granite stairs rose to the top of the precipices, and instantly departed. I had only time in ascending the steps to observe that the chain was connected with

a thick copper bar, that ran along the face of the precipice at both sides as far as I could see, a few feet above the level of the water, and that other similar bars lay parallel to it at equal distances, before a number of females armed in the same manner as her we had already seen, appeared descending the steps; I met them on a spacious landing place, and was conducted by them to the top, where two apparently of superior rank from the greater magnificence of their armour, were waiting to receive me.

They inquired in a polite manner whether I would prefer to rest in the fort a while, or to proceed at once to the palace of their mistress, and on informing them that I would chuse rather to go on to the palace, they ordered a carriage to be brought out directly to convey me: which appeared almost as soon as it was ordered. It was formed something like the ancient chariots, but much lighter, and had two open seats, one of which was more elevated and placed behind the other.

The wheels were of a very peculiar construction, each spoke of them consisting of a semicircular spring; the whole was finished with the most perfect workmanship, and the ornaments seemed even more valuable for the art with which they were formed than for their materials, though they were made of massy silver. Two of the finest horses I ever saw, were attached to it by a harness of a peculiar kind, so light and well contrived, that their motions seemed as free as if they were at liberty. One of the ladies ascended the front seat to drive, and the other did me the honour to sit on the upper seat with me. The road was perfectly smooth, a little rounded, and wound so among the hills as not to depart perceptibly from a level. Nothing could exceed the ease of the vehicle, the springs in the wheels made the road almost imperceptible to feeling, and seemed to render the draught so facile, that the horses appeared scarcely to need any effort for their rapid pace.

The country as we advanced was covered with a profusion of the richest herbage, on which innumerable herds of cattle and flocks of sheep

appeared either grazing or at rest; its surface was finely varied into hill and dale; numerous orchards were seen loaded with fruits of all sorts; many fine fields of corn of every species appeared a little way off almost ripe for the sickle, and fields of flax, and plantations of cotton were observable in many places. The distant hills were covered with luxuriant forests of oak, beech, chestnut and cedar; and over all some mountains were seen whose towering heads were lost in the clouds; on every side brooks of rapid water appeared meandering among the meadows, from which various little canals were cut, which admitted the water to the herbage, and kept it in perpetual verdure. The air felt invigorating and animating above all I had ever experienced, and every thing around seemed to inspire industry and activity, while they exhibited the happiest efforts of both.

After passing many miles in this manner in a short period, a majestic palace appeared before us, of the antient doric order, with lofty columns of red granite, highly polished, having capitals and bases of jasper, the grandeur of which was more striking from the vast size of the fabrick corresponding so happily with the nature of the order. When we came near this building, instead of entering it, as I expected, we turned off into a beautiful avenue, which led another way. On inquiring what this magnificent palace was intended for, I was informed, that it was formerly the abode of Minerva, but that on Juno coming to reside on the island, she had resigned it to her, and had built herself another, which was just then completed, with the exception of the left wing, and to which we were then proceeding. And not long after this, on passing through a grove of lofty chestnuts, we beheld it at a little distance.

It was built in that mode of architecture which is falsely called Gothic (a name stamped on it by the supercilious ignorance of those who would not be at the trouble to understand it) but which contains in reality the truest principles of beauty, and exhibits the greatest profundity of art, which in this fine specimen was brought to the

highest perfection, for in it the external appearance possessed all the grandeur, which the internal parts of other structures of this order so often exhibit. The buttresses and other parts which disfigure them, being in this entirely superseded, by the happy contrivance of a beautiful portico, formed on the justest principles of the order, which while it contained all the mass necessary for the proper equilibrium of the internal arches, concealed the art by which this was effected. Nothing could exceed the elegance of the building, and the cheerfulness caused by the vast body of light admitted by its spacious windows; its ornaments were of the simplest nature, and in this respect it bore the same analogy to other buildings of this species of architecture, which the Doric bears to the Composite order.

Some majestic looking females appeared before this building, and my conductresses informing me they perceived Minerva among them, stopped the chariot, and one of them proceeded to announce our approach, and receive her orders. She speedily returned, and I was then led by her before the goddess of the arts and sciences.

She appeared as if in the act of giving some directions about the unfinished part of the building, for she stood near it, and held a large plan open in one hand, while she leaned a little forward on her spear with the other. A countenance in which majesty and benignity, profound intelligence and exquisite sweetness were happily blended with a celestial beauty, and which inspired at once admiration and respect, now beamed forth on my astonished eyes with the splendour of a noon-day sun. I knelt on one knee before her, related the cause of my coming to the island, humbly implored her interest with Juno in the cause of my fair country women, and solicited her propitious favour in my studies of those arts which she patronized, and which from my infancy I had ardently followed.

Rise my son, replied the goddess. Your country-women may rely on my favour, which they have so much merited, as well as that of her to whom this island belongs. I have little doubt that our request to Juno will

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induce her to redress their wrongs. The part of your country which you came from, is by me most esteemed. The linen manufacture has ever been favoured by me, and I honour it by taking my name *Athenæ** from it; I introduced it from Egypt into Greece, and lastly to Ulster, where it flourishes above either. I once hoped to make its chief city the successor to my favourite Athens, but many obstructions to this remain to be removed. The useful sciences should ever precede those which are only ornamental, the desire of reversing this order, which my followers there pursue, will, I fear, long delay my wishes, if not totally prevent their attainment. As to your own petition, it is directed to favourable ears, your labours, my son, have not been unnoticed by me, and as a token of my approbation, I present you this image of my form, which I permit you ever to retain.

Saying this, she presented me with a large medal of solid gold, on which her resemblance was stamped with the most beautiful execution and effect, and then directed my conductress to introduce me to one of the ladies of her family, who would, she said, show me the various museums, and repositories of the arts in her palace, which she knew I would behold with pleasure, and would attend to those other cares which mortals required.

I returned my profound thanks to the goddess, and followed my conductress into the palace. After passing through a magnificent antichamber, we entered a very spacious apartment, lighted by many vast windows, which rendered it as light as the external air. Here a number of elegantly formed females, were busily engaged in different occupations. Some were employed in the antient art of tapestry, with which they framed images of the most brilliant colouring, and happiest effect; others were painting some of the memorable events of history in the neglected wax colours of the Greeks, which are falsely said to be lost, though plainly described by

* See La Planches History of the Heavens, vol. I. Article Minerva.

the ancient writers. Every species of the graphic art was pursued here, both in oil and water colours, engraving, etching, and aquatinta; various looms were also busily at work, and the glory of the north, the inimitable damask was not neglected; at the lower end several were engaged in various designs of sculpture, and numerous other useful and ornamental arts were all carried on here at the same time. At the upper end of the apartment were musical instruments of all sorts, to which the ladies resorted for amusement in the intervals of their other employments. One or more played by turns while the rest were at work, which made their pleasing occupations still more cheerful. When we entered a lady of most graceful figure sat in this part of the apartment, on a seat somewhat elevated, before a large harp of the utmost harmony of tone, furnished with such artful contrivances, as to render it the most perfect of stringed instruments. The music of it was exquisitely touching, and as she was playing on it, when we approached, we stopped to listen, that we might not interrupt her, and heard her sing the following verses with inimitable sweetness, to music, perfectly appropriate to their design.

Friendship again thy empire seize,
From Love's blind god thy throne regain;
In youth alone his furies please,
Thy powers to bless through age remain;
From him spring forth consuming fires,
You form life's gentlest tenderest tie:
A fleeting transport he inspires,
But you sustain us till we die.

When she finished, she looked up, and perceiving us, arose and walked towards us: my conductress presented me to her, repeated the words of the goddess, and wished me farewell, as she was obliged to return to the fort. The lady smiled benignantly, and welcomed me with an air, which showed the pleasure she took in executing the directions of her patroness, and her delight in performing acts of kindness.

In beauty of form she was not inferior to some of the most favoured of the neighbouring island;* and if her countenance could not be compared to

theirs in exquisite finish and regularity of feature, it possessed another species of beauty infinitely superior, where refined sense and intelligence, understanding and goodness of heart beamed forth in every look, and captivated the mind as well as the heart. The beauty of most of the ladies here was of the same species, though many of them might vie with the others, in even their most boasted charms. But in truth their conversation was so delightful, from its good sense and benevolence, that I thought but little of their looks, and as to their dress I remember nothing but that it was modest, rational, graceful and becoming, and that the external garments of all contained some mixture either of silk or fine wool, or were entirely of silk. There was a dignity in their manner which prevented familiarity, without being any way repulsive, they spoke with the freedom and at the same time with the kindness of friends, equally remote from the extremes of stiff-reserve, and negligent incivility, and possessed eminently that true ease of manners, which the slavish votaries of fashion are ever attempting in vain, because they want its chief requisites, refinement of mind and benevolence of heart.

As the day was far passed, Serena, my kind and lovely guide, proposed we should postpone our visits to the repositories of art and science, till the following morning, and as the hour of their chief repast was near, we passed the interval in viewing the works in which the ladies were employed where we then were. They were all finished with exquisite beauty, but the two which most attracted my attention were, a picture which seemed to exceed all in the richness of its colouring, but on nearer approach was seen to be composed entirely of shreds of various coloured cloth; which art I was told was the invention of a most respectable* lady of my country, whose happy wit, and brilliant invention the hand of time had not been able to diminish. The other piece of art, was a landscape, formed by fine filaments of glass, stained of all the requisite shades, which were united

* Paphos.

* Mrs. C—f—ld, of Enniskillen.

close together vertically by an indestructible cement, and which when polished at the surface exhibited the most exact imitation of nature, while it had the advantage of being unalterable by time.

Shortly after this the ladies passed into another apartment, where an elegant repast was prepared, of which the various articles were chosen and prepared so as most eminently to promote health and refreshment. At the table two new dishes were introduced this day: one was a haunch of Llama, skilfully dressed; the other was the favourite vegetable of the Chinese, called Pe-tsai, and both were found to be excellent. The lady who directed the rearing of the newly-arrived Llamas, informed us of their many valuable qualities, and showed us a shawl which she had woven from their wool herself, which exceeded in beauty the finest produce of Cashmere. The lady who had cultivated the Pe-tsai told us, it was of the *brassica* genus, and was preferred by those who used it to all other kinds. Several of the other ladies informed us of circumstances which had occurred to them, either useful or amusing, in their studies of that day. One lady had proved a plant, which before was esteemed poisonous, to be capable of producing a powerful medicine, by a certain management, which she related: another had succeeded in fixing a beautiful and permanent scarlet dye on linen; a third exhibited some fine thread, made without any twist, by passing fibres of flax, drawn out, and united by a curious engine, through an elastic varnish, which she had just brought to perfection, which dried instantly, and which was unalterable by moisture, or the action of the air. A fourth lady recounted a curious article of history which she had met in an ancient Chinese book, that exhibited in a new light the fatal effects of a violent passion, uncontrolled by reason or justice. A very young lady lately admitted, observed on this, that it would be better if the sexes were formed without passions, or that they could totally eradicate them by firmness of resolution. But Serena replied to her, that by the same mode of reasoning, we should banish the use of fire, and of every other powerful agent in nature, for

that as any thing in the moral or natural world had power to promote happiness, in the same proportion it had power to cause misery: the fire which consumed the unskilful, warmed others, and produced a thousand benefits by judicious management; and passion, which was no less destructive when ungoverned, was productive of equal advantages under due controul.

In such discourses as these, the moments passed swiftly and pleasantly, till the repast was concluded.

NEMORENSIS.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the eighth canto of the *Gerusalemme Conquistata*, of Tasso 12th and 18th octaves, is the word *fonte* put in the feminine gender, which flagrant solecism, with some other matters I could mention, tempts me to doubt whether that poem was ever the production of Tasso; it is in many places irksome and obscure, and is altogether unworthy of the author of the *Liberata*.

If any person who is studious of Italian literature, could adjust this point, through the medium of your Magazine, it would much oblige

RICCIARDO.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

*First Report from the Committee on Acts regarding the use of broad-Wheels and other matters, relating to the preservation of the Turnpike Roads and Highways of the Kingdom.**

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the acts now in force, regarding the use of broad Wheels, and to examine what shape is best calculated for ease of Draught, and the preservation of the Roads; also to suggest such additional regulations as may contribute to the preservation of the Turnpike roads and Highways of the Kingdom: And who were instructed to consider of an Act made in the 28th year of his present Majesty, for limiting the number of persons to be carried on the outside of Stage Coaches & other carriages; and to report, from time to time to the house,

* Published in June 1806.